Pesticide Quarterly

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Biorational Insecticides

The USDA Forest Service (FS) is continuing to explore, and encourages others to explore, new pest management technologies including the development of biorational tools for Integrated Pest Management.

The FS is directing efforts at acquiring Federal registration for a virus disease that is very effective in controlling the European pine sawfly. This product is called NEOCHEK-S. The Forest Service is also working to develop an improved formulation of GYPCHEK. GYPCHEK, a virus, was registered in 1978 to control the gypsy moth.

Registration data which supports FS registered products does not belong exclusively to the FS, rather it belongs to the public. As public domaine, the data could be used to support anybody's label. Pesticide producing establishments should be looking for ways to improve upon present formulations, and looking for possibilities to market these substances under their own brand names.

1982 Gypsy Moth Suppression

Eleven northeastern states have indicated to the USDA-Forest Service that they intend to participate in 1982 Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Programs.

Approximately 1.5 million acres will be treated with insecticides to suppress gypsy moth populations in the eleven states. High value forests, forested residential areas, and high use recreational areas are the prime targets for protection. Pennsylvania is planning suppression activities for 500,000 acres - Connecticut and New Hampshire over 200,000 acres each. Other states planning suppression activities are: Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

2,4-D

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is still looking for dioxin contaminants in 2,4-D samples taken from United States manufacturers (see Pest. Quart. Nos. 9 and 10). According to the latest reports, EPA has looked at 33 samples and found none to contain the 2,3,7,8 isomer of tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD). It is this isomer of TCDD that gives 2,4,5-T and silvex bad names.

2,4,5-T Negotiations

Cancellation hearings on 2,4,5-T and silvex are now interrupted indefinitely while the antagonists (EPA and Dow) attempt to negotiate a settlement. (See Pest. Quart. No. 11). The indefinite period allowed for settlement negotiations makes it appear the parties may have found some mutual grounds for settlement. Administrative Law Judge, Edward Finch, ordered that he be informed if the negotiating parties reach any substantive milestones.

USDI and USDA Relax Pesticide Use Policy

Recent manual deletions by U.S. Department of Interior (USDI) and USDA-Forest Service (FS) reflect significant policy changes regarding the use of pesticides on federal lands.

The USDI changed its manual by deleting a list of pesticides that here-to-fore were restricted or otherwise prohibited from use on Interior lands and water.

The FS deleted from its manual a long list of criteria that had to be met before using silvex, 2,4,5-T, or 2,4-D on National Forest System Lands.

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The USDA Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment must no longer review and approve the use of pesticides in designated Wilderness areas nor uses of silvex and 2,4,5-T on National Forest System Lands. Authority to approve these pesticide uses has been returned to the Chief of the Forest Service and is now delegated to Regional Foresters.

New Publications

"Public Concerns About the Herbicide 2,4-D". A 32 page review by Dr. Wendell R. Mullison that nicely summarizes pertinent facts about 2,4-D. It could be useful in responding to concerns about forest vegetation management programs involving 2,4-D. The review is published by Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

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"The Biologic and Economic Assessment of Lindane". USDA Technical Bulletin Number 1647. A 196 page report prepared by the USDA Lindane Assessment Team. It contains information collected in response to EPA's Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration of lindane. The report gives a use-by-use economic impact analysis for the principal uses of the pesticide. Copies can be obtained from Stan Fentig, USDA-Agriculture Research Service, Beltsville, MD 20705.

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"Are Pesticides Safe?" - A leaflet (NA-FB/P-19) prepared by the USDA Gypsy Moth Steering Committee in cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency. It explains the regulatory safeguards and processes that insure the safety of registered pesticides. This pamphlet is meant to serve as an information aid to help pesticide program managers answer the common questions about pesticide safety. Copies are available from USDA Forest Service, 370 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008.

"Herbicide Label Guide." - This is a revision of the Herbicide Handbook published earlier by Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry (NA/S&PF). The book is a collection of approximately 170 herbicide labels commonly used in forestry and forest related activities. The labels are arranged by active ingredient and can be accessed by "site/use" key. Requests for single copies will be distributed on a first come - first serve basis. If interested, contact Charles Hatch, USDA Forest Service, 370 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008

Supplemental Labels

Dupont has a supplemental label which allows the use of Velpar®, Gridball® Brush Killer (EPA Reg. No. 352-387) for forestry site preparation and conifer release. Dupont recommends this product in areas which receive greater than 20 inches of annual rainfall and east of the Rocky Mountains where loblolly, longleaf, red, shortleaf, slash, and Virginia pines and white spruce are grown.

Gridball® is a pelletized product. Rainfall causes the pellets to crumble, and moves the herbicide into the root zone of woody plants. It is registered for both ground and aerial applications.

New Developments

The August issue of Forest Chemical News (FCN) reports on a low-cost method for the timed release of pesticides and growth stimulants. The system was developed by University of Washington researchers. FCN says that "The new system consists of a polymer that holds the active substance and allows it to escape at a predetermined rate, ranging from a few months for farmers to up to five years for forest managers. The method was developed by Dr. G. Graham Allan, professor of fiber and polymer science at the University, and Dr. Amar Neogi, manager of fiber research for the Weyerhaeuser Co.". Dr. Neogi is also affiliated with the University.

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